

1. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition comprising a biodegradable polyester resin (A) which essentially comprises an  $\alpha$ - and/or  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid unit and is crosslinked by at least one crosslinking agent (B) selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate compounds and polyvalent isocyanate compounds, wherein some or all of carboxyl groups of the resin (A) are blocked by 0.01 to 20 parts by mass of a terminal blocking agent (C) based on 100 parts by mass of the resin (A).

2. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the terminal blocking agent (C) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of carbodiimide compounds, epoxy compounds, oxazoline compounds, oxazine compounds and aziridine compounds.

3. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent (B) is present in a proportion of 0.01 to 10 parts by mass based on 100 parts by mass of the biodegradable polyester resin (A).

4. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polyester resin (A) essentially comprises one of poly(L-lactic acid), poly(D-lactic acid), a copolymer of L-lactic acid and D-lactic acid and a blend of poly(L-lactic acid) and poly(D-lactic acid).

5. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition as set forth in claim 1, further comprising 0.05 to 30 parts by mass of a layered silicate (D) based on 100 parts by mass of the biodegradable polyester resin (A).

6. (original) A method for preparing an aliphatic polyester resin composition which comprises a biodegradable polyester resin (A) essentially comprising an  $\alpha$ - and/or  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid unit and crosslinked by at least one crosslinking agent (B) selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate compounds and polyvalent

isocyanate compounds, wherein some or all of carboxyl groups of the resin (A) are blocked by 0.01 to 20 parts by mass of a terminal blocking agent (C) based on 100 parts by mass of the resin (A), the method comprising: mixing the biodegradable polyester resin (A) and the terminal blocking agent (C); and then mixing the crosslinking agent (B) with the resulting mixture.

7. (currently amended) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 5.

8. (new) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 2.

9. (new) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 3.

10. (new) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 4.

11. (new) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 5.

Respectfully submitted,

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